<u>REMARKS</u>

This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action dated November 27, 2007. Claims 1 to 5, 7 to 9 and 11 are pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 7, 11 and 13 are independent. Reconsideration and further examination are respectfully requested.

Claims 13 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the claimed invention is allegedly directed to non-statutory subject matter. Without conceding the correctness of the rejection, Applicant has amended Claim 13 to clarify that it is directed to a computer-readable storage medium storing a computer program product. In addition, Claim 14 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection.

Claims 1, 2, 6, 7 and 11 to 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over U.S. Patent No. 5,923,013 (Suzuki). Claims 3 to 5, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Suzuki in view of well-known prior art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection are respectfully requested.

The present invention concerns setting printer settings by a printer control apparatus using a page setting screen. The page setting screen accepts inputs of a partial print attribute to be applied to a designated page in response to an instruction input using a setting screen of the printer driver. The page setting screen is a screen on which the user can confirm the print attribute. An example of such a page setting screen is shown in Fig. 7 of the present application. Subsequently, a page setting screen is displayed on which the user can confirm the print attribute upon an instruction to display the page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a page different from the page designated is input.

Turning to specific claim language, amended independent Claim 1 is directed to a printing control method executed in an information processing apparatus which has a printer driver to convert data into print data which a printing apparatus can process. The printing control method includes a first setting step of setting a print attribute to be applied to the print data in response to instruction input using a setting screen of the printer driver; a displaying step of displaying a page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a designated page in response to an instruction input using a setting screen of the printer driver, wherein the page setting screen is a screen on which a user can confirm the print attribute set in the first setting step; and a second setting step of setting the partial print attribute to be applied to a page designated using the page setting screen, in response to an instruction input using the page setting screen. The displaying step displays a page setting screen on which a user can confirm the print attribute set in the first setting step when an instruction to display the page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a page different from the page designated in the second setting step is input.

Applicant submits that Suzuki neither discloses nor suggests all of the features of the present invention. Specifically, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest setting a print attribute to be applied to the print data in response to instruction input using a setting screen of the printer driver, a displaying step of displaying a page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a designated page in response to an instruction input using a setting screen of the printer driver, wherein the page setting screen is a screen on which a user can confirm the print attribute set in said first setting step, and a second setting step of setting the partial print attribute to be applied to a page designated using the page setting screen, in response to an instruction input using the page setting screen, wherein said displaying step displays a page setting screen on

which a user can confirm the print attribute set in said first setting step when an instruction to display the page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a page different from the page designated in said second setting step is input.

In contrast, Suzuki discloses a print control system that manages a print job on a page basis. JDFs specifying the print attributes different from each other are stored corresponding to respective pages (or groups of pages). However, Suzuki fails to disclose or suggest displaying a page setting screen to set a partial print attribute to be applied to a designated page in response to an instruction input using a setting screen of the printer driver, wherein the page setting screen is a screen on which a user can confirm the print attribute set in a first setting step. As shown in Figs. 1 to 3 of Suzuki, the JDfs can be applied to print data in page units in Suzuki. However, the contents of a JDF to be applied to a page cannot be shown and confirmed by a user. Therefore, the user cannot know what print attribute is set to specific pages as is possible in a print control apparatus in accordance with Claim 1.

In light of the deficiencies of Suzuki, Applicant submits that Claim 1 is now in condition for allowance and respectfully requests same.

Claims 7, 11 and 13 are directed to an apparatus, a system and a computer-readable storage medium, respectively, substantially in accordance with the method of Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant submits that Claim 7, 11 and 13 are also in condition for allowance and respectfully request same.

The other pending claims in this application are each dependent from the independent claims discussed above and are therefore believed patentable for the same reasons. Because each dependent claim is also deemed to define an additional aspect of the invention, however, the individual consideration of each on its own merits is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, the entire application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and such action is respectfully requested at the Examiner's earliest convenience.

CONCLUSION

No claim fees are believed due; however, should it be determined that additional claim fees are required, the Director is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 50-3939.

Applicant's undersigned attorney may be reached in our Costa Mesa, CA office at (714) 540-8700. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our below-listed address.

Respectfully submitted,

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